

From: Patrick Schmidt
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/16/01 9:22am
Subject: my perspective

Dear DOJ,

I am an American currently living in the UK.

I don't expect that this email (or even a thousand like it) will have any effect on the Administration's thinking, but I want to voice my opposition to the poor handling of this litigation.

Most of all, giving away your (legal) hand by stating publicly what penalties you would not seek (i.e. no breakup of Microsoft) is a bone-headed way to enter settlement talks. Why would you willingly give away bargaining chips? I have never favored break-up, but that doesn't mean I wouldn't want that as a credible threat.

Oh well. At least I can put my hope in the EU to effect the kind of resolution to this that I and many other American consumers want. You have made yourselves irrelevant.

yours,

Patrick Schmidt
Centre for Socio-Legal Studies
University of Oxford
patrick.schmidt@csls.ox.ac.uk